



## THE FARMERS TALK TO FARMERS

The Relation of Demonstration Farms to Other Farms

(Written specially for the Bulletin.)  
For some years, now, "demonstration farms" seem to have been favorite tools of the uplififers. A number of states have them in connection with their experiment stations or state agricultural colleges. I've just read of a western farm paper which has bought land for one. The editor is going to run it so as to show "what a farm can be and ought to be." Incidentally, he probably expects to get a reasonable amount of "copy" off it, while waiting for the corn and potatoes.

Theoretically nothing could be more admirable than this idea of demonstrating the value of new systems and new tools, etc., in actual use on real dirt. There are many things in a farmer's life which look all right till we try them: which seem simply rosy with promise till we test them by performance. Then they "peter out." If we could know beforehand when any one of these shining theories was propounded, that somebody on some professorial demonstration farm was giving it a fair and practical test, it would seem as if his trial might serve us as well as himself and all the neighbors. He and his farm would be the "yaller dog" on which the medicine could be tried before we fed it to our own pups. That's the way it seems, when you first think of it. That, also, is the way it does actually work, somewhat and in some cases. Not always, more's the pity.

We owe our present ability to control several insect and fungous pests almost solely to the work of experimentalists on large or small "demonstration farms." Mighty few potatoes would most of us raise if we did not know how to apply Paris green or arsenate of soda when the "scab" shell bugs appear. The theory of these poisons was first worked out in the laboratory and then their efficacy submitted to the practical test of application to actual bugs on actual potato plants growing in actual dirt. A great many other poisons were experimented with, all of which promised, in theory, excellent results. It was the practical test of practical demonstration which showed the superior value in practical work of the spray now so universally used. Other remedies for other plant troubles are constantly being worked out and tested, even yet. He would be an unusual pig-headed farmer who should deny the value of the laboratory and the demonstration farm in this line.

Similarly, after the chemist has worked out his analysis of the soil and of the crop which it has produced, he can figure out how many pounds per acre of this, that, and "other" plant constituent the farmer must put back to restore it to its original condition. But not till actual test of his theoretic fertilizer has been made on actual fields can anything definite be known about the practical value to the working farmer of his concoction. Lots of things that work out beautifully on paper won't in the field. You can do many things with a pad and pencil that you can't do with a horse and cultivator. The things which you can do with a horse, however, are generally worth doing. When a theory squares itself accurately with all the rules of the books and the laws of the wise men it certainly may be regarded hopefully. But when that same promising theory has been subjected to the test of practical use in practical work, and has demonstrated that it really will work as well as it looked as if it might work—why, then, you've got something more than a pretty theory—you've got a solid fact done up in shape so you can use it.

At the same time that I admit thus the value of the "demonstration farm" and its usefulness to the working farmer, in some details and along some lines, I don't feel inclined to accept everything which is shovelled at me off every "demonstration farm" as so much gospel-truth, or as an addition to the Ten Commandments.

It's an admitted peculiarity of us farmers that we are all of us "rot" in our ways of doing things. No two of us plow or plant or manure or cultivate just alike. Other people laugh at us because of this trait: we appreciate it, ourselves, and sometimes wonder why it should be so. Really, there's no call for us to do so. It isn't so much we that are different as it is our farms. If there are any two farms in all New England that are exactly alike in their characters and requirements, I never happened to get sight of them. There is always some difference, either in the composition of the soil, or its physical condition, or its past use and abuse, or its moisture, or "the lay of the land," or something else. As one star differeth

from another star in glory, so one field differeth from all other fields in character and capacity. The farmer who gets the best results from his particular farm is the one who knows that particular farm best. And here is the point: it doesn't help him so much to learn about some other farm as it does to learn his own farm. Furthermore, what somebody else finds out on some other place isn't worth nearly as much to him as that which he himself finds out on his own place. For the simple reason that his place isn't the other fellow's place, and the other fellow's isn't his place.

There are some broad, basal principles in farming which apply to all agricultural operations. But they are not very numerous, and are most secure results. Know about ten thousand little details many of which are peculiar to our own farms,—to certain fields in those farms,—perhaps to different sides of the same field. When it comes to these details we simply must make them fit our own conditions: we must make ourselves fit them and the conditions. It is perfectly natural, under such circumstances, that we should become what the philosophers call "excessively individualistic," what we ourselves describe as "set" and "stubborn." After you've pounded a soft pine peg into a hole in the anvil about forty years, you'd expect to find the peg had shaped itself somewhat to the hole, wouldn't you? Some of us are softer even than white pine, and we've been pounded for more than forty years into a seventeen cornered hole in the anvil of cold fact by the sledge-hammer of brutal circumstance. Why shouldn't we have some queer sides and some absurd humps when one pulls us out and looks at us?

But the probabilities are that, after the sort of hammering I've suggested, we actually fit the hole we're in rather better than even Professor Jack-of-all-Trades could have whittled us to fit it, though he carved never so scientifically and skillfully.

The trouble with these "demonstration farms" and their farmers is that too often they fail to recognize the differences between their acres and mine. They go at their clay-loam and keep at it till they have evolved a scheme of farming which fits it like a tailor-made suit on a Narragansett beach belle. Then they stroll over to my gravel-patch and offhandedly set out to tell me how to raise more and better potatoes, or sugar-beets, or corn or clover. Why, damn their impudence, I know seventeen things about that gravel which they never heard of,—have known 'em for sixty years. And the very first and simplest thing I found out, way back in the time of the Buchanan administration, was that what was sauce for clay-loam wasn't the right gravy for gravel. Yet the difference between clay-loam and gravel is only one of the seventy-seven differences between their field and mine. Both are made of dirt, mixed with some stones; both are damped with rain water; but beyond these fundamentals of likeness there are scores of unlikenesses. That they have discovered the knack of coaxing success out of their soil I'll cheerfully admit. But I must develop a quite different knack to cajole comparable results from mine. And it does sometimes "rile" me to have them put on a sort of superior air and dose me out a lot of misfit information as they were philanthropists working solely for my good.

The very best "demonstration farm" for you and I brother hayseed is the one which we hold title to in our own names. There is room on it for experiment and test: for demonstrations which, when accomplished, shall be a certainty for us. The results which other demonstrators obtain on other farms mean only possibilities to us on our farms. We must, in any case, test them out by ourselves, and for ourselves under our own conditions, before we can be warranted in accepting them. He is a good farmer who, holding grimly fast to all the knowledge which he has earned and proved, still reaches out every season after more, and tests for himself any new system or scheme which, found helpful by others, shows promise of equal value to him.

To sum it all up, let's admit that these so-called "demonstration farms" are handy things to offer suggestions for us to try out, but exceedingly bad things for us to imitate blindly. They are useful as goods, but never absolutely trustworthy.

THE FARMER.

### EXCELLENT ROADS.

Found by Senator McGovern on Auto Trip in Ireland—Improved Conditions—Farmers Need Help.

Says the Hartford Times: Senator Patrick McGovern, who returned from a trip to Ireland, where he went to see his niece, who is in ill health. The senator was delighted to find her health very much improved.

Senator McGovern returned to this country on the new White Star liner, the Olympic, which made her first trip across the Atlantic. He tells a pleasant story of the conditions of Ireland. He says the improvements in the country within recent years are marked. To use the senator's own words the improvements "simply beggar description." He landed in the north of Ireland and visited Derry, a city of about 40,000 people. He had not been in that city before forty years and the growth and improvements to him. He took a tour through Ireland in an automobile and this gave him an opportunity to see the country to much better advantage than if he had traveled in a railroad train.

### Fine Roads.

The improvements in the roads were marked. An auto does not have the slightest impression on them. They are substantially built with a solid foundation of stone that resists the heaviest and most destructive kind of traffic. The people have better homes than formerly and they dress better. They are happy and contented. The improvement he attributes to the operation of the land laws passed by the British parliament which enables the people to buy their farms. Landlordism is fast disappearing and the people are becoming the owners of their own farms and homes. This gives them an incentive to industry and thrift. They are beautifying their homes and making them more comfortable. Among the delightfully interesting things that he noticed were the changes in the homes of the farm laborers. Instead of the cheerless, comfortless mud wall cabins there are being built by the county councils, aided by money advanced by the government, neat, tidy homes to which are attached an acre of land.

You Cannot Possibly Find a Better Way Than To Take Advantage of the Unusual Bargains We Are Offering In Our

# ALTERATION SALE

Suits for Men and Young Men  
AT SACRIFICE PRICES

\$8.00 NOW	= \$4.90	\$15.00 NOW	= \$10.90
\$10.00 NOW	= \$5.90	\$16.00 NOW	= \$11.90
\$12.00 NOW	= \$8.90	\$18.00 NOW	= \$12.90

DON'T MISS THE UNUSUAL BARGAINS IN MEN'S AND BOYS'

Shoes and Oxfords

\$1.50 NOW	= \$1.15	\$3.00 NOW	= \$1.95
\$2.25 NOW	= \$1.59	\$3.50 NOW	= \$2.45
\$2.50 NOW	= \$1.69	\$4.00 NOW	= \$2.95

\$4.00 and \$5.00 ODD COATS = = = \$2.25

15c WASHABLE FOUR-IN-HAND.....	5c	25c POLICE SUSPENDERS, extra heavy.....	15c
25c SHIELD TECKS, best silks.....	10c	10c BOW TIES.....	2 1/2c
50c BALBRIGGAN UNDERWEAR.....	39c	10c RED and BLUE HANDKERCHIEFS.....	3 1/2c
50c PRINCIPAL SHIRTS.....	39c	35c BOYS' OVERALLS.....	21c
10c CANVAS GLOVES.....	5c	15c BOYS' STOCKINGS, size 5 1/2, 6, 6 1/2.....	7c
\$1.50 SUIT CASES.....	89c	35c BALBRIGGAN UNDERWEAR.....	21c
15c MEN'S and BOYS' SUSPENDERS.....	8c	10c RUBBER COLLARS.....	5c
50c OVERALLS, all colors.....	39c	15c BLACK and TAN HALF HOSE.....	7 1/2c
35c MEN'S and BOYS' CAPS.....	21c	10c FANCY HALF HOSE.....	10c
10c SOFT FINISH HANDKERCHIEFS.....	3 1/2c	50c SOFT HATS.....	29c

## Brooklyn Outfitters

"The Store That Satisfies"

OPEN EVENINGS

266, 268 and 270 Main Street

The laborers pay a small rental for the homes. These homes look pretty and cozy with their front yard brilliant in flowers and the porches ornamented with trailing plants. The great need of the country is help. The farmers find it very hard to obtain help owing to the emigration.

### No One Intoxicated.

In all the time he was in Ireland, and he traveled the entire length of it, Senator McGovern did not see a person under the influence of liquor. The people have their affairs to attend to and they realize that the success of their affairs requires sobriety. As an instance of the remarkable sobriety of the people he said that in the town of Enniskillen—the shire town of his native county of Cavan—an arrest for drunkenness is very rare and is almost unheard of for the simple reason that the people keep sober. Senator McGovern is the owner of three farms in his native county. He is the owner of the school house where he was educated and of the surrounding land. He has had the building repaired and made much more comfortable. There were fourteen children in his family and they were all educated in that school.

### BIG ROUNDHOUSE.

Great Concrete Building in Course of Construction for Railroad.

Passengers who have seen with wondering curiosity the immense structure being erected at the Cedar Hill freight yards of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad just outside of New Haven, will be interested in knowing that this is a giant concrete roundhouse being built for the New Haven road. When complete this will be one of the largest engine houses in the country, the largest roundhouse of reinforced concrete construction. This vast circular house is to be 280 feet in diameter and will provide 42 stalls, accommodating 43 steam engines or 85 electric engines. The roofed ring which houses the engines is 90 feet wide and 39 feet high. Within this ring is an open area 90 feet in diameter, the center of which is to be built a 79-foot turntable. Each of the engine stalls has a pit, and extending across three of the stalls is a large drop pit, over which an engine can be swung for repairs.

The roundhouse is being built of reinforced concrete throughout and is to be a model of its kind. The structure is being erected on the very edge of the Quinnipiac river, and this location involves some interesting engineering problems. The land where this great structure is being built was formerly a big marsh, without a foot of solid ground. This has necessitated extensive pile driving over the entire surface of the marsh occupied by the building, and when finished the structure will rest on a small forest of sunken timber. More than 1,000 immense piles from 40 to 55 feet long have been driven in the mud, and on these will rest the foundation of the building. The foundations will be exactly on a level with the surface of the marsh, making it necessary to raise between 30,000 and 40,000 yards of filling inside the walls of the building to bring the ground up to the floor level of the engine house. The erection of the engine house on the very edge of the river also makes necessary extensive riprapping to prevent the whole structure from slipping into the river, and this is now being done.

The preliminary work on the contract began last fall, but not until early summer was the building well under way. Since May 1 a force of 200 men has been employed on the work, which is now being rapidly pushed to completion, and the building will be ready for occupancy early in the fall. The roundhouse when completed will be the largest of the New Haven system, and will be used for both freight and passenger engines, taking the place of several small roundhouses now in use.

### Escaped Nothing.

Inside of a year Mexico has had flood, famine, anarchy, revolution and earthquake. For a hard luck run this

comes within two of equalling the seven plagues of Egypt, and the end is not yet.—Buffalo Times.

### The meekest Man.

Our notion of the meekest man is one who is afraid to attempt borrowing a part of his salary from his wife. —Hitchcock Globe.

### A Limitation.

Colonel Roosevelt's commendation of the suffragette does not, of course, extend as far as the woman who wants to run the whole machinery.—Atlanta Constitution.

### So Do the Politicians.

New York is going to spend \$131,000,000 on a subway. It is announced. Trust it is not stage money this time. —Chattanooga Times.

### Meaning of Insurgency.

"Insurgency" begins to seem a synonym for inconsistency, inconstancy and incompetency.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

## Delicately Formed

and gently reared, women will find in all the seasons of their lives, as maidens, wives and mothers, that the one simple, wholesome laxative remedy which acts gently and pleasantly and naturally and which may be taken at any time, when the system needs a laxative, with perfect safety and really beneficial effects, is Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna.

It has that true delicacy of flavor which is so refreshing to the taste, that warming and grateful toning to the stomach which responds so favorably to its action and the laxative effect which is so beneficial to the system when, occasionally, its gentle cleansing is required.

The genuine, always bearing the name of the California Fig Syrup Co., may be purchased from all leading druggists in original packages of one size only, price fifty cents per bottle.

## M. B. RING AUTO CO.

Agent for Pope Hartford and Overland Cars for New London County.

New cars for immediate delivery.  
A FEW USED CARS CHEAP  
One Overland Touring Car, one Runabout (little used), one Maxwell (45 H. P.), one Maxwell (22 H. P.)  
One Team Wagon.  
One Peddler Wagon.  
A complete line of new and second-hand Wagons at reduced prices.

M. B. RING, Chestnut Street

### QUALITY

In work should always be considered especially when it costs no more than the inferior kind. Skilled men are employed by us. Our price tells the whole story.

STETSON & YOUNG

We issue Letters of Credit for travellers, available in all parts of the world. Correspondents of Baring Brothers & Co., Ltd.



## KIDDER, PEABODY & CO.

BANKERS

115 DEVONSHIRE STREET  
BOSTON

56 WALL STREET  
NEW YORK

## Herald Ranges THE BEST BAKERS

### THE NEW HERALD CABINET

COMBINATION COAL AND GAS RANGE.

Useful Summer or Winter. Gas Ovens for Baking, Roasting and Broiling. Three Burner Gas End Shelf. Both can be used at the same time or separate with utmost safety.

SOLD BY LEADING FURNITURE AND STOVE DEALERS.

N. S. GILBERT & SON,  
Norwich, Conn.

## BORDEN'S Malted Milk

A REAL MALTED MILK

THE BEST THAT SCIENCE CAN PRODUCE

IT HAS NO EQUAL

MALTED MILK DEPT.  
BORDEN'S CONDENSED MILK CO.  
NEW YORK

## Advice to Mothers

Have you had baby's photograph taken?  
It's an art to take baby's photograph as it should be taken. To catch his roguish little smile, his pretty little dimple. Such photographs become prized remembrances of babyhood's days in years to come. We have had years of experience in photographing children. They always look their best when we take them. No troublesome posing. Snap them in a jiffy.

## LAIGHTON,

The Photographer.

Opposite Norwich Savings Society.

## JOSEPH BRADFORD, Book Binder.

Blank Books Made and Ruled to Order.  
103 BROADWAY.  
Telephone 222.

## DENTIST DR. E. J. JONES

Suite 46, Shannon Building  
Take elevator Sheluchet street entrance. Phone.

F. C. ATCHISON, M. D.,  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.  
Room 1, Second Fl. Dr. Shannon Bldg.  
Night phone 1932